



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**DENTISTRY: NOMENCLATURE CHANGE**

House Bill 4484 with committee amendments  
First Analysis (6-10-87)

Sponsor: Rep. Alma Stallworth  
Committee: Public Health

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JUL 16 1987

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**THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

In listing the specialty fields in dentistry, Michigan's Public Health Code refers to "pedodontics" and "oral surgery". The national and state dental specialty designations for these specialty fields, however, is "pediatric dentistry" and "oral and maxillofacial surgery". The Michigan Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons was joined by the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in requesting legislation that would bring state terminology naming these specialties into conformity with that used by their state and national professional associations.

**THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to change the terminology describing two dental specialties. "Pedodontics" (and "pedodontists") would be changed to "pediatric dentistry" ("pediatric dentists"), and "oral surgery" ("oral surgeon") would be changed to "oral and maxillofacial surgery" ("oral and maxillofacial surgeon").

MCL 333.16263 and 333.16608

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Fiscal information was not available at the time of this analysis. (6-8-87)

**ARGUMENTS:**

**For:**

The bill would bring the terminology describing two dental specialties that appears now in state law into conformity with the terminology used by the state and national dental specialty associations. The bill would simply institute a name change; there would be no change in scope of practice.

**POSITIONS:**

The Department of Public Health has no position on the bill. (6-5-87)

The Michigan Council of Dental Specialty Presidents supports the bill. (6-8-87)

The Michigan Dental Association supports the bill. (6-8-87)

H.B. 4484 (6-10-87)